(b) whether during this period processing of seismic survey data was to be processed for the areas of exploration under ONGC;

(c) if so, the details of the same (year-wise area);

(d) whether the same has been completed in regard to Contai area; and

(e) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir. Mr. Kingston in 1996 had recommended that for at least three years no drilling be done.

(b) and (c) The year wise break up in processing seismic data acquired in PEL areas held by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) i.e. North Jaguli and Contai in Bengal Basin is given below:

1997-1998: 109.7 Ground Line Kilometre

1998-1999: 604.4 Ground Line Kilometre

1999-2000: 920.8 Ground Line Kilometre

2000-2001: 104.3 Ground Line Kilometre

(d) and (e) The basic processing of seismic data has been completed.

Seismic survey at Contai area of West Bengal

2554. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) since when seismic survey and other studies are being made in Contai area of Bengal basin under ONGC;

(b) whether any time limit was prescribed to complete the work;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether for the blocks under NELP at least four number exploratory test drilling has to be done within two years;

(e) whether any exploratory test drilling has been done in Contai area so far; and

(f) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) In Contai area Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) had taken a Petroleum Exploration Licence (PEL)

measuring 820 Sq. Km., w.e.f. August 1997. Seismic surveys has been started thereafter in this PEL from the field season 1997-98.

(b) The seismic surveys were planned to be conducted in the field seasons 1997—99.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

(d) Under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP), drilling of a well is optional in the first phase of exploration which can extend up to three years in onland areas.

(e) In the Contai PEL block held by ONGC, since 1997 no well has been drilled.

(f) The area is under evaluation.

Financial Assistance to dependents of missing employees in ONGC

2555. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 293 given in the Rajya Sabha on 24 July, 2001 and state:

(a) the names and posts held by all the seven deceased employees in ONGC;

(b) the name and posts provided to all the dependents of the six employees in ONGC; and

(c) the name of the dependent of the deceased to whom financial assistance was made in lieu of employment togetherwith the amount paid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) The details of the seven employees of ONGC who were reported to have died in harness while performing official duties during the period January, 1990 to December, 1994 are given in the Statement I (*See* below).

(b) The details of the employment provided to the dependents of the six deceased employees in ONGC are given in the Statement II (*See* below).

(c) Financial assistance in lieu of gainful employment amounting to Rs. 1.05 lakhs was given to Smt. M. Padma, wife of (Late) Shri M. Govind Reddy, Deputy Superintending Chemist who died on 8.05.1994, on account of cardiac arrest, while on duty on board the Offshore Drilling Rig, Badrinath.